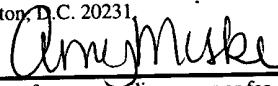


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re continuation patent application of:)

Mark W. Bleyer et al.)

Before the Examiner

Application No.: New U.S. Continuation)
Application Filed Herewith)

Group Art Unit

Filed: December 19, 2001)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment for the above-entitled patent application. Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include issue fees.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the first paragraph on page 1 of the Patent Application under the heading "REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION" to read as follows:

--The present application is a continuation of Patent Application No. 09/444,881 filed November 22, 1999, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application,

Serial No. 60/110,407, filed December 1, 1998, each of which is hereby incorporated by

Preliminary Amendment

Inventor: Mark W. Bleyer

Application No.: New U.S. Continuation Application Filed Herewith

Page 1 of 2

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